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No. 150



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MALARIA REPORTED STILL ALARMINGLY DANGEROUS

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 13 Jul 79 p 5

[Article: "Malaria Still a Killer"]

[Text] **DAR ES SALAAM:** More than one million Africans, mainly children, will die this year of malaria and 100 million cases will be reported as the disease makes an alarming resurgence in the continent despite the efforts of medical science and public health workers to control it.

These statistics emerged at a one-week international seminar on malaria held in Dar Es Salaam this month in an attempt to promote an Africa-wide campaign to conquer the disease.

The 100 delegates from 11 countries were told that not only was the disease attacking more victims, but some of the tiny *Anopheles* mosquitoes which spread it had become resistant to insecticides, and there was evidence that types of the parasite they transmit had become immune to the drugs being used to control them.

Throughout the tropics a mosquito bite can lead to bouts of fever and headache,

lowered blood pressure and chills. When drugs are available these bouts can be ended or at least controlled.

However, in some cases, the symptoms can return with high fever, relapse and eventual death.

In the 1950's the war against malaria appeared to be moving in man's favour. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared 1955 "world-wide malaria eradication year."

A malaria eradication fund was set up to assist countries to carry out the campaign and it was hoped that in a few years of insecticide spraying in malaria areas the mosquitoes and their parasites would be under control.

Several countries, among them Mauritius, declared themselves malaria-free.

However, the experts at the Tanzania seminar concluded that, although the disease was suppressed for several years, its resurgence, in Africa at least, is so serious that the region rather than individual states should work together to attack it.

Even before man discovered that malaria was spread by mosquitoes, he associated it with swamps and pools, the stagnant water of mosquito breeding grounds. The Romans drained swamps without knowing the connection between the swamp and the disease, but they wiped out malaria.

The very name means "bad odour" or "fetid air" and refers to the atmosphere of the swamp.

In modern times scientists have turned to DDT to kill the insects. While this insecticide was effective at first, experts here heard evidence that new generations of mosquitoes inherited resistance to it and new insecticides were the only answer.

Tanzania's Professor W Kilama, a specialist in parasitology and entomology, said some species of West African mosquito "can literally swim in insecticide without injury. He recommended a return to variations of the Roman method — environmental destruction of mosquito breeding grounds.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NO EPIDEMICS IN CSSR, SFRY--There are no hepatitis and meningitis epidemics in Yugoslavia or the CSSR, announced the Austrian ministry for health and environment on Monday [16 July] in Vienna. The hepatitis occurring in the CSSR is transmitted indirectly by ~~food~~ or milk, but not by humans, thus danger of contracting the disease is low. Cases of meningitis in Yugoslavia are of a light nature. [Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 18 Jul 79 p 5 AU]

CSO: 5400

ACTIVITY OF INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE, EPIDEMIOLOGY DISCUSSED

Tirana BASHKIMI in Albanian 13 Apr 79 pp 1,2

[Interview with Tahir Cenko, director of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, by Muhamet Sheqeri: "Achievements and Perspectives"]

[Text] The Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Tirana completes the first decade of its existence as a center for science and research. To make our readers aware of the many activities and achievements of the institute, our editor, Muhamet Sheqeri, was given an interview by the director of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Tahir Cenko.

[Question] Comrade Tahir, although 10 years is a relatively short time in the field of science and research, what can you tell our readers about the work and achievements that have taken place here?

[Answer] The Seventh Party Congress laid down important duties to safeguard the health of the people. First, among these duties is to strengthen and increase measures of preventive medicine. As a result of the numerous measures that have been taken and because of the good work that has been done by our collective, every year, satisfactory improvements have been achieved in all the demographic indicators, such as the maximum reduction of the instances of contagious diseases, and more exacting service by the directorates of hygiene and epidemiology in the districts.

The creation of this science and health institute, the expansion of health institutions in the districts, and even in the remote areas of the country, the progressive increase in the number of advanced and secondary medical cadres, and a continuous improvement in their ideological-political, and ideological-professional qualifications, while providing them with the resources and equipment which respond to the demands of the times have made it possible for our health services to better satisfy the needs of the people.

But, in the overall framework of safeguarding and strengthening the health of our people, measures which help prevent disease are of the utmost

importance. From this source are derived the deeply prophylactic guidelines which our party has given to our health service, and especially to our sector as a scientific research institute.

Although study problems in the field of hygiene, epidemiology and production are numerous and varied, we have tried to have these problematic studies dominated by two important principles: First, these scientific problems must respond to the concrete duties which preoccupy our socialist health service, and second, we must link our scientific activity to massive scientific thought, extending our cooperation not only with the directorates of hygiene and epidemiology in the districts, but also with the other interested sectors of our economy. In this manner objective conditions are created and it becomes possible to extend our work beyond the walls of the institute. The creation of these conditions in the heart of our general medicine is an objective necessity to make it go forward. They make it go forward by increasing the quality and the amount of work done in medical diagnosis, preventive medicine and science and research. Conditions differ in the capitalist-revisionist countries where these branches, as "secondary" branches, withdraw within themselves, not in the interest of the working masses, but to insure greater profits.

For this reason the planned programs for scientific subjects spell out the work that will be accomplished by our workers and by the workers in other health and nonhealth institutions. On the basis of the demands made in this situation the harsh capitalist-revisionist encirclement, the workers of our institute, under the guidance of the basic party organizations, are carrying out thorough and high level scientific studies which will help solve the problems of preventive medicine.

The Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, as the only institute in the field of preventive medicine, plays a special role in studies and experiments which have to do with strengthening and safeguarding the health of the people. In carrying out these studies they have kept in sight the treatment of broader and more complex problems, they have pursued them dynamically by better implementing the technical and scientific criteria, and by releasing their conclusions by stages, without waiting for the studies to end.

In the hygiene sector careful attention has been given to the following subjects: environmental pollution (studies on drinking water, surface waters, industrial waste, noise and vibrations, industrial air pollution), the proper diet of the population, the physical development of children, control of the bacterial content of food products, the canning of food products and so on.

In the area of combating contagious diseases and producing immunobiological preparations, the workers of these services have made great efforts

and have achieved good scientific results. Through these efforts the true epidemiological situation in the districts has been recognized and more effective measures have been defined to prevent and combat disease. At the same time they have had a positive influence on increasing production, increasing the range of serums and diagnostic antigens, as well as increasing the quality of the products.

[Question] This broad program of subjects which the workers of the institute have undertaken is, without doubt, reflected in the results that you have achieved. What can you tell us about this matter?

[Answer] Guided by the party materials and the teachings of Comrade Enver that science and technology should be linked to our revolutionary practice and should be developed in conflict with expressions of intellectualism scientific research and studies in the field of epidemiology and production have given good results. In this regard we should mention the complex studies on diphtheria, typhoid fever, salmonella, shigellosis, ancylostomiasis, epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, rodents, the resistance of insects to insecticides and so on. Fruitful work has been done on study themes related to production such as erythrocytic hydrolysate, human albumin, experiments on plague vaccine, the increase in the range of serums and diagnostic antigens, the improvement and enrichment of technological processes, the immunizing strength of the diphtheria antitoxin, the typhus-tetanus vaccine as well as the effects of vaccines and reactions to vaccines and the lyophilization of vaccines. Studies on products show that the plan for producing vaccines for the past year was fulfilled in quantity and assortment.

[Question] Since studies are linked to production, what has been done to improve the skills of the workers and to carry out the technical and scientific revolution?

[Answer] In this area the workers in the different units of our institute have made serious efforts to assimilate within a short period of time, advanced methods and techniques, which have already been implemented in various departments. The results of our experience, after theoretical processing and enrichment, taking into consideration in a critical and creative manner progressive world experience, have served and will serve scientific-research work. Lectures from our works on different scientific studies have been published in the form of monographs and articles. They have taught and deepened the scientific knowledge of the cadres, and they have helped the rest of us in our post-university training. We can say that the different units have prepared and sent for publication material on 83 subjects, 5 brochures which deal with specific problems, the dissertation material for a diphtheria monograph, and a number of studies for the departments of hygiene which have been sent to the districts. Good work has been done in post-university training. In the past year, 25 advanced cadres have successfully passed 30 examinations.

The achievements and successes accomplished in the field of science, and in the technical and scientific revolution must not allow us to become self-satisfied. We must, as the party and Comrade Enver teach us, submit our work to healthy criticism and self-criticism, pinpointing weaknesses and deficiencies and defining ways to lessen them, because only in this way will we be able to secure even greater successes. A task which is in the center of attention of the institute is the training of cadres in the district. Last year alone 18 advanced cadres from the districts went into various specialties.

[Question] The anniversary of the first decade of the existence of the institute coincides with the glorious jubilee of the 35th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland. How is your collective getting ready for these two anniversaries?

[Answer] The collective of our institute, bearing in mind our situation after the betrayal of the Chinese revisionists, relying completely on its own forces, delving even more deeply into the technical and scientific revolution, has taken a number of daring initiatives, such as the production of erythrocytic hydrolystate and human albumin for the manufacture of measles vaccine, experimenting to produce plague vaccine, in lyophilization of different vaccines, increasing the production of epidemiological preparations to respond to the epidemiological situation, increasing the range of serums and diagnostic antigens, opening the leptospiroses and rickettsiology laboratory. It is worth mentioning here the pledges which have been made to use and maintain the apparatus, to economize on reagents, and save 90,000 kilowatt hours of electricity and save 50,000 leks' worth of alcohol in 1979 and more in the years to come.

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ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

SCARLET FEVER INCREASE--A press release by the municipality of Buenos Aires reports an increase in scarlet fever cases--greater than anticipated for this time of the year--but not however representing an outbreak or an epidemic. The disease strikes mostly school-age children and youths, and is characterized by a sudden start, with fever--sometimes vomiting--throat ache, sore throat, scaly tongue and a skin rash extending over the neck, chest, folds and interior areas of the thighs. During convalescence the skin becomes scaly. This disease in our environment is usually benign and is cured through bed rest and antibiotic treatment. In view of the slight increase in number of cases, parents are advised to report cases answering to the foregoing description to school doctors or to those of the Municipal Hospital Preventive and Protection Services. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jun 79 p 1] 9399

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AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT STUDIES PROPOSE REDUCTION IN HOSPITAL BEDS

New South Wales 'Drastic Reduction'

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 23 May 79 p 3

[By Shaun McIlraith, Medical Correspondent]

[Excerpt] A State Government task force is considering recommending the closure of hundreds of bed in major hospitals in the inner Sydney area and Newcastle and Wollongong.

The drastic closure of about 4,500 beds throughout the State could follow from a Federal Government threat to reduce the NSW hospital budget by \$63 million in 1979-80.

The major hospitals in the three cities are prime targets because much of the \$1,000 million hospitals budget is spent on them.

In NSW 10 per cent of the public hospitals account for about half the total spending.

Major hospitals which may be involved in the bed cuts include Royal Prince Alfred, St Vincent's, Sydney, Royal North Shore, Women's Hospital, Crown Street and the Prince Henry, Prince of Wales and Eastern Suburbs group.

The task force, chaired by Dr Trevor King, a former NSW Health Commission officer who is now a hospital administrator, was set up in January by the Minister for Health, Mr Stewart.

Its other members are a nursing administrator, Miss J. Noble, a Health Commission health services researcher, Mr Joe Martin, the chief executive officer of Bankstown Hospital, Mr Eric Sad-

ler, and a Sydney businessman, Mr Kevin Kirby.

The task force was appointed to examine ways of rationalising hospital services to meet an earlier Federal Government demand that NSW reduce bed occupancy in public hospitals from 1,434 to 1,100 occupied bed days per 1,000 of population a year.

This 24 per cent reduction was to be achieved over three years.

~~In financial terms~~ it amounts to a cut of up to \$240 million a year in the annual budget of \$1,000 million by the end of three years.

In terms of bed closures it would rewrite the present public hospital equation: 27,000 available beds with about 20,000 being used on any one day could come down to about 20,000 available beds with about 15,000 being used.

The new Commonwealth demand for a \$63 million saving in this year's Budget — a cut of \$31.5 million in Federal funding with a matching drop in State expenditure — is what might be saved yearly by reducing bed occupancy to 1,100 per 1,000 over three years.

One way of saving the \$63 million would be to close a string of hospitals such as Balmain, Marrickville, Lewisham, the Women's Hospital, Crown Street, St Margaret's, St Luke's and Sydney Hospital.

The task force review has also been conditioned by:

A State Government promise that no jobs in public hospitals will be lost as a result of the rationalisation.

A Commonwealth demand for a "no-growth" policy on

public hospitals. This obliges the State to close one old hospital bed for each new bed opened.

The State is already 400 bed closures in arrears over the opening of the new Westmead Hospital.

By November 120 more beds will be due for closure because of the opening of a new block at Gosford Hospital.

The surplus of old beds will increase by about 300 in 1980 when 187 new beds open at Liverpool and 120 at Shellharbour, and by 200 in 1981 when 200 open at Mount Druitt.

All these surplus beds are in addition to those which have to be closed to meet the occupancy rate demanded by the Federal Government.

Victoria Less Affected

Melbourne THE AGE in English 31 May 79 p 4

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Victorians will be least affected by the Federal Government's determination to reduce the time people spend in hospital.

With the exception of the Northern Territory, Victoria has the lowest rate of hospital bed occupancy in Australia — 1105 days a year for every 1000 of the population.

The Federal Government's report on proposed rationalisation of the hospital system has set a target of 1100 bed days for every 1000 of the population by 1981.

New South Wales will be worst hit by the rationalisation programme.

To meet the Federal Government's target, NSW will have to reduce the time people spend in hospitals by almost 20 per cent from 1434 bed days per 1000 population to 1100 bed days per 1000 population.

The proposed three-year programme to reduce the time people spend in hospital will save the Federal Government \$34.5 million.

AUSTRALIA

NEW QUARANTINE MEASURES TO PROTECT FROM AFRICAN FEVERS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 29 May 79 p 1

[By Philip McIntosh, Medical Reporter]

[Text]

The Federal Government is spending millions of dollars on strict new quarantine measures to protect Australia from three deadly African fevers.

The measures were judged necessary because the diseases are extremely contagious, untreatable and often fatal.

No cases of the viral diseases — Lassa, Marburg and Ebola — have appeared in Australia yet but they have in many other western countries including Britain, Canada and the US.

A Federal Health spokesman, Mr. Russell Griffin, yesterday said the African fevers were the new horror diseases replacing small-pox, which has largely been eradicated.

The superintendent of Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dr. Noel Bennett, said the patients had to be held in the strictest isolation because the fevers could be transmitted through the air.

He said a considerable number of people — including nursing staff and laboratory workers — had died from the fevers in America.

People suspected of being infected would be held in a new high-security ward to be built at Fairfield Hospital. This is due to be opened late next year.

Transit isolators will be used to bring the patients from other States in cargo jets chartered from Ansett Airlines by the Commonwealth.

Dr. Bennett said the eight-bed ward would cost at least \$2 million and would eventually replace the Commonwealth quaran-

tine stations in the State capitals.

He said two transit isolators would be located in six State capitals, and they would cost a total of \$336,000.

The fevers were first identified in 1969. Death rates as high as 65 per cent have been recorded.

Lassa fever is named after a village in Nigeria, its normal habitat; Marburg fever is named after the German city where clinical workers caught the virus from infected green monkeys and Ebola fever is named after a river in Zaïre where the first Western contact with it occurred.

Dr. Bennett said the fevers, which were known collectively as viral haemorrhagic diseases, were difficult to diagnose because the symptoms were not specific.

Sufferers could have a sore throat, fever, diarrhoea, aches and pains, symptoms which could fit influenza or malaria, he said.

"They are called haemorrhagic fevers because of the tendency to bleed from different parts of the body, such as the nose or the gut," he said.

Death was caused by general damage to all organs of the body. Dr. Bennett said there was no treatment for any of the diseases.

Mr. Griffin said the Government's decision to introduce the new quarantine procedures was influenced by the increasing passenger traffic between Australia and Africa, estimated at 25,000 trips a year.

AUSTRALIA

STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF QUARANTINE LAWS PLANNED

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 26-27 May 79 p 5

[Text] A crackdown on airline passengers bringing in foodstuffs or other material which could carry animal diseases was promised at a Senate committee hearing yesterday.

Officers from the Commonwealth Department of Health were making a second appearance before the Senate standing committee on national resources at its inquiry into Australia's plant and animal quarantine system, to answer criticism and deal with points raised by earlier witnesses.

The committee had earlier heard evidence about the high proportion of seizures of prohibited foodstuffs from passengers arriving from particular countries.

Mr. Richard Searle, a first assistant director-general in the department, said it had now arranged for a new announcement on Qantas flights, covering measures against possible insect pests, and also meat imports.

Broadcasts were being made on ethnic radio in Sydney and Melbourne, Mr Searle told the committee. "This will be hard-hitting multilingual approach," he said.

Tapes would be available to ethnic radio stations in other States or overseas.

Mr Searle said penalties for breaches had been increased.

"You have to hit people in the hip-pocket nerve," he said.

The chairman of the committee, Senator Andrew Thomas (Lib, WA), said the committee had been particularly disturbed when it visited the Torres Strait area, to see the difficulty of preventing the import of exotic livestock.

Mr Searle said the department had done a lot of work in the Torres Strait area.

There were difficulties because the islands were so close together.

"Clearly we are improving our contact with the local people and a lot of our success will depend on their co-operation," he said.

Dealing with the argument by many witnesses that responsibility for animal quarantine should be transferred to the Department of Primary Industry, Mr Searle said there were valuable operational links between animal and human quarantine.

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

TRACHOMA CARE UNAVAILABLE TO ABORIGINES, SURGEON SAYS

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 16 May 79 p 10

[Text] Surfers' Paradise.--Modern, effective corneal grafting techniques were inaccessible to the people most prone in the world to trachoma eye disease--Australian aborigines--a Melbourne eye surgeon said yesterday.

Mr. J. E. K. Galbraith spoke to ophthalmologists attending the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' scientific meeting.

He stressed the importance of State governments following the aboriginal trachoma survey, originally carried out by the College and the Federal Government.

Work on the trachoma survey in Queensland was stopped for several months in November 1977 when the Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) claimed that field workers were campaigning for ALP candidates in the State elections of December 1977.

Because ophthalmologists had to follow up their operations with regular patient contact for at least a year after transplanting donated eye corneas, aborigines

living in remote areas were at a distinct disadvantage, he said.

Highest

Aborigines have the highest incidence of trachoma in the world, but there is no reason why, with State Government support, the disease should not be eradicated," said Mr. Galbraith, who took part in the Commonwealth survey.

Since surgeons had begun using nylon thread, 24,000ths of a millimetre thick, and microscopes for corneal grafts, the success rate for operations had risen in recent years from 60 to 90 per cent, he said.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

TRAVELERS' IMMUNIZATIONS--Australians travelling to most Asian and southern European countries were advised yesterday to be vaccinated against diseases even if the vaccinations were not compulsory. The NSW director of the Federal Department of Health, Dr Robert Bull, said that people travelling in Asia should be vaccinated against typhoid and cholera and those going to southern Europe against typhoid. He was commenting on a letter in the Herald yesterday which complained that travel agents were advising clients against non-compulsory vaccinations. He said vaccinations were not obligatory, but this did not necessarily mean there was no danger of disease. He believed cholera and typhoid vaccinations were not necessary for people travelling only in northern Europe, North America, Japan and certain Pacific countries. But travellers elsewhere should always consult doctors of the Federal Department of Health or their own doctors on the need for such vaccinations. [Excerpt] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 May 79 p 10]

CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATIONS--Complacency by parents on the immunisation of their children could lead to a serious outbreak of disease, a medical research worker said yesterday. Dr Margaret Burgess said that there could be outbreaks of polio, diphtheria and whooping cough. Dr Burgess is a fellow at the children's medical research foundation at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney. She was speaking at the joint meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Epidemiology and Research in Community Health and the Australian Public Health Association, being held at the University of WA this week. She said that the diseases had not been active in Australia for a decade and some young mothers might be unaware how serious they were. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 May 79 p 59]

VIRUS STUDY FUNDING--WA research into the ecology of influenza viruses has been at risk through lack of finance. The research, which is part of a World Health Organisation international project, is being undertaken by Dr John Mackenzie, senior lecturer in the University of WA department of microbiology. Started in 1977, it was originally funded by the Wellcome Trust of Britain, which now thinks that the research should be financed by Australia. The Utah Foundation has stepped into the breach with a grant of \$20,000. The department hopes that the National Health and Medical Research Foundation will make a \$40,000 grant to continue the work from next January. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 30 May 79 p 28]

CSO: 5400

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF 40 TYPHOID FEVER CASES IN BAHIA

'Precarious' Hygienic Conditions

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jul 79 p 17

[Text] Salvador--The Bahia State Secretariat of Public Health yesterday confirmed existence of 40 suspected typhoid fever cases in the city of Jeremoabo, 356 kilometers from Salvador in the northern part of the state. Confirmation of the outbreak, however, still depends upon the result of laboratory tests by the Sixth State Health Bureau in Paulo Afonso. The tests are being made on specimens gathered from 18 of the 40 patients and, according to the director of the State Health Bureau, Roque Oliveira, the results should be known sometime today.

The patients, meanwhile, are being treated with chloramphenicol and, as Health Secretary Jorge Novis announced yesterday, all are responding well to this treatment. Yesterday afternoon, while awaiting the return of the medical team he sent to Jeremoabo to assess the extent of the disease, Novis said that the typhoid outbreak, if confirmed, results from the precarious hygienic conditions in which the city's population lives.

A large number of local residents, he says, are accustomed to meeting on weekends on the banks of a reservoir which, although it is the city's principal source of water, is not properly treated. Beyond that, many residents raise pigs in their backyards and some of the city's sewers were destroyed recently by heavy rains.

Laboratory Tests Negative

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jul 79 p 13

[Text] Salvador--Bacteriological tests made by the Sixth Regional Health Bureau of Bahia, based in Paulo Afonso, did not confirm suspicions of typhoid fever in the city of Jeremoabo, where 40 persons are sick due to an unknown cause. The agency's director, Roque Oliveira, reported that the

colpoculture made on specimens collected from 18 of the 40 patients was negative for Salmonella [typhosa] (the bacterium that causes typhoid fever) and the tests were positive in only 3 of the cases for Shigella, responsible for another type of intestinal infection.

The physician said the tests will continue until the disease is diagnosed precisely. According to him, the clinical condition of the patients is not showing major changes and no further cases were reported during the last 3 days. The patients--who are suffering from fever and diarrhea--continue to be treated with chloramphenicol.

8834

CSO: 5400

STATE OF RIO INFANT MORTALITY FIGURES DISCUSSED

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Jul 79 p 10

[Text] Rio de Janeiro State Health Secretary Silvio Barbosa said yesterday at the First Seminar on Social Integration that "infant mortality in Rio de Janeiro State can be considered comparable to that of developed localities, because it is 60 per 1,000 children." He deplored the fact that in some municipalities--such as Caxias, Sao Goncalo, Teresopolis, Nova Iguaçu, Nilopolis and Sao Joao de Meriti--the rate of vaccination against poliomyelitis had been only 15 percent, rather than the 80 percent expected.

"If we can reduce infant mortality to 50 per 1,000 children and provide a life expectancy of more than 60 years we will certainly have reached by the year 2000 the goal proposed by the World Health Organization in promoting the International Year of the Child. Which represents much more: countries with economicosocial development, because their young people will be healthy," he pointed out.

International Year

After recalling the slogan for the International Year of the Child ("A healthy child, a secure future"), Secretary Barbosa said that a third of the population today consists of children and by the year 2000 we will have a population estimated at 6 billion people, of which 70 percent of the young people will be in developing countries.

"The WHO goal might, at first glance, appear audacious," he said, "just as did smallpox eradication when the WHO launched its campaign in 1950.

"But for 10 years there has been no smallpox, so that 13 countries have abolished the requirement of a vaccination certificate and the WHO is offering \$20,000 to anyone who identifies and reports a case of this disease anywhere in the world. In the same way, the goal of reducing infant mortality rates and increasing life expectancy may seem a challenge today. But what we must do is concentrate our efforts on this problem since, of the 125 million children born throughout the world last year, perhaps 12 million will not reach 1 year of age."

Silvio Barbosa said that the major concern of world health authorities is with the pre-natal period, birth and infancy. He mentioned that whereas 250 of each 1,000 children born in Africa die before they are 1 year old, only 13 of each 1,000 born in Europe die by that time.

He cited the various programs that are being implemented to reduce infant mortality, such as hygienic education and programs that assist both mother and child. In the process of distributing food to the poor, these programs care for mother and child and also give vaccinations and make periodic medical examinations.

"At the moment this program reaches only a few people in Rio de Janeiro State--only 100,000 out of a population of 3 million nursing mothers and children--and it receives criticism, but I think it is important to retain it and expand it."

Silvio Barbosa believes it is necessary to provide the public with health education, developing thorough programs adapted to the communities. Good food and basic sanitation are also essential.

"The agreement signed with Minister Andreazza about 4 days ago in the amount of 3 billion cruzeiros for, furnishing running water to Caxias, Nova Iguacu, Nilopolis and Sao Joao do Meriti will do more for these localities, in terms of infectocontagious diseases, than our programs can do."

After recalling that only about 10 percent of the children in developing countries are vaccinated against common diseases such as measles, polio, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria and tuberculosis, Silvio Barbosa spoke favorably of family planning in terms of caring for the health of mother and child.

8834

CSO: 5400

SIX RIO MUNICIPIOS TO STEP UP POLIO IMMUNIZATIONS

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Jun 79 p 15

[Text] To prevent an epidemic of poliomyelitis in the latter half of this year (as statistics show that in odd years cases tend to increase during this season), starting tomorrow the State Secretariat of Health will intensify vaccinations in Rio de Janeiro, Duque de Caxias, Nova Iguaçu, São João de Meriti, São Gonçalo and Teresopolis. The goal is to immunize 314,211 children from 2 months to 4 years of age.

Vaccinations will be given from 0800 to 1600 hours at 70 posts, 23 of which are located in Rio. Because the number of children vaccinated in 1978 fell short of ideal, in the six selected municipios there were 86 cases of poliomyelitis from January to April. Silvio Barbosa da Cruz, state secretary of health, explained that the disease is still present in Brazil because parents do not have their children vaccinated.

Cases

As the statistics have indicated that cases of poliomyelitis, infantile paralysis or polio usually increase in the latter half of odd years, by reason of the cycle of the disease itself, the State Secretariat of Health will intensify vaccinations in the six municipios, and could turn the operation into a campaign (in which locations other than the health posts are used) if the announced goal is not reached.

Within the age range of 2 months to 4 years, 131,442 children will be immunized in Rio de Janeiro, 6,192 on Teresopolis, 33,912 in Duque de Caxias, 78,095 in Nova Iguaçu, 30,784 in São Gonçalo and 33,786 in São Meriti. Sabin vaccine is administered orally in three doses, with a 3-month interval between doses. Children with fever, diarrhoea or nausea will not be given the vaccine until the symptoms have disappeared.

Between 1975 and 1978, 842 cases of poliomyelitis were recorded throughout the state of Rio, 589 of which were children who have not received any of the vaccine. From January to April of this year there were 33 cases in Rio, 3 in Teresopolis, 10 in Caxias, 15 in São Gonçalo, 10 in São João de Meriti and 15 in Nova Iguaçu.

6362

CSO: 5400

MENINGITIS CASES, DEATHS REPORTED IN BRASILIA, PIAUI

Meningitis in Brasilia

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 26 Jun 79 p 13

[Text] Three children residing in the North Wing near the CEUB [University Student Center of Brasilia] have been admitted to the Base Hospital with meningitis. Under the supervision of Dr Alvimar Macedo, the medical staff of the hospital's isolation ward is giving the children intensive care in an attempt to keep the disease under control, it was reported there.

Claiming he is not authorized to speak on the subject, Macedo did not wish to confirm that the children had been admitted. "No comment," he sent word through his secretary, but an unidentified nurse at the hospital confirmed the presence of patients suffering from Type A meningococcus, which is contagious. "There are three children. As far as I know, they are on the seventh floor."

Secretary Confirms

"Three children have in fact been admitted with meningitis. They are receiving adequate treatment and will be able to leave the isolation section within a few days." The statement came from Jofran Frejat, secretary of health, who made a point of explaining that health authorities have the disease under control.

Expressing his concern about the repercussions of the report, Frejat stated that "the public need not be alarmed, because we devote particular attention to areas thought to be foci, usually located outside the Plano Piloto."

As soon as they learn of the existence of a focus, health officials take every precaution to prevent the disease from spreading. According to the health secretary: "We vaccinate everyone showing symptoms of the disease."

Meningitis Deaths in Piaui

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jun 79 p 9

[Text] Teresina (O GLOBO)--Joao Alves Filho (ARENA [National Renewal Alliance]), councilman for Campo Maior, said yesterday that "two children died of meningitis in his city in the space of a few days." An 8-year-old nephew of the councilman and a 17-year-old student have died.

6362

CSO: 4401

FOCI OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO IDENTIFIED

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jun 79 p 10

[Text] Brasilia--Besides Pendotiba in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro State has other areas that are foci of schistosomiasis, such as Jacarepagua, Sao Goncalo, Sumidouro and Duas Barras, the head of the Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns, Joaquim de Castro Filho, reported yesterday. He said that by next week he will receive a report about the schistosomiasis situation throughout the state and that emergency measures have already been decided upon for Pendotiba.

Although he considers the situation there "relatively normal" and denies that 13 percent of the population is infected, Castro Filho reported that the snail responsible for the Pendotiba focus is one of the most dangerous--the *Biomphalaria denagophila*--making prompt intervention necessary.

"Solon Camargo, director of the Schistosomiasis Division of the Health Ministry, is coming to Rio de Janeiro next week," said Castro Filho, "and he is to make a complete survey of the area to ascertain the actual rate of schistosomiasis occurrence, now estimated at 6.7 percent."

In that study SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns] will survey not only schoolchildren 7 to 14 years of age, as has been done previously, but also adults engaged in growing vegetables and greens, environments in which the major endemic foci are believed to exist.

Migration

"The main problem in combating endemics is the uncontrolled flow of migration, in the absence of a specific emergency policy such as exists in drought and flood calamities," the SUCAM superintendent declares.

He points out, nevertheless, that although such policies do not exist, future intensification of campaigns to combat schistosomiasis in the Northeast may result in the residents there staying where they are.

Emphasizing that Rio de Janeiro State is immune from other endemics, such as malaria, Chagas' disease and endemic goiter, Joaquim Castro Filho said the campaign to combat schistosomiasis gives absolute priority to the North and Northeast regions.

"Should the Rio de Janeiro survey confirm an emergency situation, we will seek other funds to respond to it, but we will not alter our program in the Northeast," he asserted.

8834

CSO: 5400

SCHISTOSOMIASIS AMONG ARACAJU SCHOOL CHILDREN

Treatment Campaign Underway

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Jul 79 p 4

[Text] Aracaju--"Aracaju is the nation's schistosomiasis capital," said physician Cleovansostenes Pereira de Aguiar in disclosing that "in a 'heumitologico' [translation unknown] survey among school children between the ages of 7 and 14 made by SUCAM (Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns) it was discovered that 36.7 percent of them have schistosomiasis."

Dr Pereira de Aguiar said that, based upon these data, SUCAM will begin a campaign next Monday to combat the disease throughout the urban area of Aracaju. All tests necessary for combating schistosomiasis will be free of charge, so that "the public can understand the need for treatment.

"Beginning Monday," he said, health officials will go from door to door to collect specimens for the tests. They themselves will return to these homes to report the results of the tests, so that each person may know the actual condition of his health; that is, whether or not he is a carrier of schistosomiasis."

The doctor, who will be the campaign coordinator, also said that the health official, when presenting the result of the tests, will take along with him an exact dose of the remedy--mansil--to be delivered to the carrier of the disease, who can then go to be treated by any physician.

In confirming the revelations made by Health Minister Castro Lima last week in Salvador, to the effect that Sergipe is one of the states with the highest incidence of schistosomiasis, Dr Pereira de Aguiar said that "the situation in the state is really serious."

Campaign in Salvador

Salvador--Health Minister Castro Lima is arriving today to sign agreements that will get the Special Program for Schistosomiasis Control (PECE) underway in the Lago de Sobradinho region and the Paraguacu Valley, benefiting about 1 million persons.

Campaign to Exterminate Snail

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jul 79 p 30

[Text] Aracaju--The high rate of infection from schistosomiasis revealed last week by Health Minister Castro Lima led the state's government to ask SUCAM for urgent measures to combat the schistosomiasis snail [caramujo]. As a result, a campaign will begin tomorrow to exterminate the caramujo in the major foci of the capital of Sergipe to implement an agreement between the Health Secretariat and the SUCAM.

8834

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

HEALTH MINISTRY LEPROSY CONTROL CALLED INEFFECTIVE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jun 79 p 13

[Text] In Rio, attorney Andre Luiz Costa de Paula, member of the Society for the Study of Hansen's Disease in Endemic Countries, which is headquartered in Sao Paulo, criticized Health Minister Castro Lima's statements indicating that "the policy for Hansen's Disease control would in no way be altered, although a new case of Leprosy is recorded every 45 minutes in Brazil."

According to the attorney, who has lived with lepers for 5 years, the problem is imminently urban and suburban, and Minister Lima should promote a campaign against the ailment.

"Hansen's Disease is a disease of the poor," said Andre Luiz; "92.25 percent of the victims in Sao Paulo have a primary school education at most. It is a skin disease like any other, and is difficult to transmit. It had already disappeared in developed countries, even before the advent of the sulfones."

The attorney laments that there is no continuing search for contagion foci. There are no skin examinations in families exposed to contamination, nor is the "Mitsudo" skin test, using the leper's own bacilli, given to verify human tissue resistance to the disease.

"The chiefs of the health centers," he charged, "do not send the material to prepare this vaccine and the Health Ministry has never considered it important. Nor is intradermic BCG given, particularly to infants. It should be given up to 5 years of age and repeated by the age of 15, because the vaccine provides a certain degree of protection to minors exposed to contagion."

6362

CSO: 5400

MALARIA HITS INDIAN POST IN RONDONIA; NEW CONTROL MEASURE

Malaria on Indian Post

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jun 79 p 14

[Text] Malaria is attacking the Indians at the Lourdes station in Rondonia, where members of the Gavioes, Araras and some Zoro tribes are located. The disease may have been transmitted by workers on the farms in the region of the Branco and Castanhal Rivers. A team from SUCAM [Superintendency of Public Health Campaigns] is in the area.

In addition to malaria, the Lourdes station is facing other problems, which have necessitated the return of its former director, Jose Santana Neto, a "Sertanista" [specialist in the Brazilian interior], who was working in another sector of the FUNAI [National Indian Foundation]. Armed Indians have been rioting at the station, creating a difficult situation in view of the proximity of several farms.

The continuing arrival of migrants in the territory of Rondonia is also creating concern in the Eighth Regional District of the FUNAI, which is headquartered in Porto Velho and has been directed since 20 June by "Sertanista" Apoena Meirelles. In May alone, about 1,700 families, totaling 8,000 people, entered the area by Highway Route 364, and some of them settled in the zone marked by FUNAI, in the "7 September" station, where the Surui Indians are located. Yesterday Meirelles and "Sertanista" Aymore Cunha da Silva, director of the Aripuana Indian Reservation, visited the station. Last year there were 156 families; the number has risen to 250 this year, increasing the tensions in the region.

New Control Measure

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jun 79 p 16

[Text] (From our correspondent in Porto Velho)--In the next 6 months the regional office of SUCAM [Superintendency of Public Health Campaigns] in Rondonia will use a new weapon against malaria; larva control will be applied

in three areas considered the most critical in the territory. They are located in the capital itself, where about 132 "A. Darling" Anopheles mosquitos were recently trapped within 2 hours. Physician Raul Diniz Amorim, SUCAM regional director, sees the "A. Darling" as possibly the most dangerous malaria carrier in existence.

According to official data, this year malaria had already caused 19 deaths in Rondonia by the end of April. Figures are not yet available for May and June. However, the victims were migrants who were infected in other states.

6362

CSO: 5400

HEPATITIS OUTBREAK IN EDUCATION CENTER REPORTED

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Jul 79 p 12

[Text] The president of the State Foundation for Education of Minors, Jesse Torres Pereira Junior, informed O GLOBO yesterday that he cannot predict the date on which quarantine will be lifted at the FEEM [State Foundation for Education of Minors] Reception and Screening Center No 1 on Ladeira do Ascurra in Cosme Velho. Of the 197 children there now, 9 hepatitis cases have been verified since the end of March. He said that the whole unit is under rigorous medico-sanitary care, all steps have been taken to disinfect the area and the children as well as the adults who work there are subject to periodic control examinations.

"As the disease has an incubation period of about 30 days, and the latest case appeared about a month ago, we are continuing with periodic examinations every 15 days. The transaminase test measures the dosage of elements in the blood that indicate whether or not the organism has a predisposition for hepatitis. Only when they reach a normal level will we be able to de-quarantine the home."

Causes of Outbreak

According to the FEEM president, "studies and surveys made indicate that the first two cases were caused by infection from the water--a problem that has been taken care of. The others must have been caused by being spread from child to child."

He asserted that all precautions were taken:

"We called the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, the FEEMA [State Environmental Engineering Foundation] and the CEDAE [State Water and Sewer Company] and we notified the Public Health authorities. All materials being used now (syringes, diapers and so forth) are disposable. The water is being inspected, the water tanks and drains were disinfected and, what is essential: no one comes in and no one goes out. The measures have been taken; now we must hope that the disease is cured. There is nothing more to do."

In regard to his plans for the FEEM (he took office at the beginning of April), Torres said:

"This area does not have new ideas; it has new ways of doing the same things. We intend to improve the care system through interdisciplinary work and get the foundation's units into closer touch with the community. But always bearing in mind that the final objective of the whole system of caring for minors is not merely to provide shelter and make them good residents but rather to prepare them for life."

8834

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

NEW LEPROSY POLICY URGED--Belo Horizonte--"About 300,000 lepers are registered nationwide, and more than 50,000 of them are in Minas Gerais. But Brazilian leprosy experts, based upon their own observations, believe there are sufficient grounds to estimate at least 4 times these official data, which would increase the number of patients nationwide to over 1 million. The official statistical data are far short of reality and at the moment little can be done to improve them." That report was made here yesterday by Deputy Ademir Lucas of the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] in asking the state government, through the Health Secretariat, and the federal government, through the Health Ministry, to establish a new policy to combat leprosy. At the same time he deplored the shortage of medical specialists in combating leprosy, asserting that in Minas Gerais, "where 2 of every 1,000 persons are lepers, the Health Ministry no longer has a service to care for the patients." He pointed out that before 1972 federal leprosy specialists supervised about 600 of the state's 722 municipalities and that since that time they have failed to function. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Jul 79 p 6] 8834

TB DECLINE IN AMAPA--Macapa--The Amapa Health Secretariat has published a report indicating that after 3 years of work carried out by the Tuberculosis Control Program, with the assistance of federal health authorities, the disease is completely under control in the territory, where vaccinations significantly reduced occurrence of the disease. According to the document, 133 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were verified last year among more than 100,000 inhabitants, which represents a rate of 1.06 percent, whereas the expectation was in the range of 10 to 12 percent. During that period vaccination teams administered 17,795 intradermal shots of BCG vaccine to persons under 15 years of age. The director of the campaign, biochemist Jose Jeova Freitas Marques, maintains that the success of the work is due to establishing miniposts and centers for collecting specimens. The former operate with a physician, a bacilloscopist and a general services assistant, whereas the centers only have a technician whose work is to collect the specimens for the analyses that are made in Macapa. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jul 79 p 31] 8834

YELLOW FEVER CARRIERS--According to a SUCAM [Superintendency of Public Health Campaigns] survey, the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito was encountered in 40 percent of the 67 districts of Salvador. The mosquito, which carries yellow fever, entered Bahia in 1976 and spread from there to Rio de Janeiro, Natal and Recife. It has since been eliminated in Recife. The information came from SUCAM Superintendent Joaquim de Castro during a meeting of representatives of the agency in Bahia, Espirito Santo, Sergipe, Alagoas and Pernambuco. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the various programs in progress in their states. Health Minister Castro Lima also took part in the meeting. Despite confirmation of the mosquito's presence, Castro Filho reiterated that there is no yellow fever in Brazil, because the virus is absent. He added that SUCAM is "campaigning" in the three capitals where the mosquitoes have been observed and is maintaining normal operations in the others. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jun 79 p 16] 6362

NITEROI IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN--The Niteroi Health Secretariat yesterday concluded immunization of 1,486 children in 11 municipal schools, administering the first vaccination shot for tetanus, smallpox, whooping cough and diphtheria. The greatest number of shots were for tetanus, a disease which kills 2.4 children per 1,000 annually in Niteroi, representing one of the highest mortality rates in the metropolitan region, surpassed only by Nova Iguacu. The campaign will be resumed during the second half of the year, when vaccinations will be concluded in the 9 remaining schools of the municipality on 6 to 31 August. The second dose of vaccines will be given in September and October. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jun 79 p 16] 8834

CSO: 5400

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

VIRUS EPIDEMIC IN SLOVAKIA--In the second half of June an increased number of occurrences of virus-caused inflammation of the liver has been registered among pupils of elementary and comprehensive schools in east Slovakia, according to the Slovak Ministry of Health. To prevent a further spread of this infectious disease, appropriate measures have been taken in the pertinent region--among them a temporary restriction on mass-attendance events. [Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 27 Jun 79 p 2 AU]

CSO: 5400

FIJI

BRIEFS

DENGUE FEVER EPIDEMIC-- Suva, Wednesday.--Fiji's Health Ministry plans an emergency mosquito-spraying program to combat an epidemic of dengue fever which has affected thousands of people. Up to 200 patients a week are being reported in Suva, Lautoka, Nandi and Sigatoka. The health centre at Ba Town has reported 100 to 200 cases a day. No deaths have so far been reported. The fever affects people like a severe form of influenza. (AAP). [Text]
[Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 17 May 79 p 3]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CONFIRMED--Cholera has broken out in Mansuo and other villages near Bawdie in the Aowin-Amenfi district of the Western Region. Dr B.D.T. Annan, medical officer in charge of the Asakrangwa government hospital, confirmed this in an interview with the Ghana News Agency, but declined to give figures. He said a team of medical field unit personnel from Tarkwa and Asankrangwa were out to bring the situation under control, adding that there was no cause for alarm. Officers from the medical field unit (M.F.U.) were also going round villages in the Aowin-Amenfi district especially villages around Bawdie to give anti-cholera vaccines. [Text] [Accra DAILY GRAPHIC in English 27 Jun 79 p 3]

CSO: 5400

INDIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA, GASTRO-ENTERITIS DEATHS--Cuttack, July 1,--Cholera and gastro-enteritis have broken out in Cuttack district reports UNI. About 50 deaths have been reported till now. Of the 14 blocks affected, the worst hit was Kendrapara subdivision, from where 11 deaths were reported. There were 10 deaths in Rajnagar, six in Raj Kanika, three in Derabishi and one in Marshaghai. Other affected blocks include Salehpur Sadar, Mahanga, Balikuda, Dharam Shala, Dasarathpur, Tangi, Ersoma and Nischinta Koili. The Chouduar municipal area has also been affected. Authorities claim that of the 69,440 people affected in these areas 36,798 have been inoculated. About 2,970 wells, including 1,566 in Cuttack city, have been disinfected. However, the city reported only one case, which was treated and cured. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Jul 79 p 11]

CHOLERA, SUNSTROKE DEATHS--New Delhi, July 6: About 100 people have died from cholera and sunstroke in Rajasthan State over the past two weeks a government minister said today. Temperatures in the area have soared to 47 degrees centigrade (115 fahrenheit). State Labour Minister Kedar-nath Sharma said the desert state had now had an acute water shortage. But in northeast India floods have killed 10 people and made thousands homeless. The Brahmaputra river today rose above danger level at Gauhati, capital of Assam State although elsewhere the waters were reported to be receding. [Text] [Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 7 Jul 79 p 1]

CHOLERA IN RAJISTAN--New Delhi, 7 Jul--More than 100 people died either due to heat wave or from cholera during the last fortnight in the desert districts of Ganganagar, Shuru, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner in Rajasthan, in north India, PTI news agency reported today. PTI said, quoting Edarnath Sharma, who resigned recently from the State Cabinet, that if within the next few days there was no rainfall the situation in these areas would be serious. People in these places faced severe hardships due to shortage of drinking water. At a number of places cholera has broken out in an epidemic form, the reports added. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 8 Jul 79 p 4]

DECLINE IN INFANT MORTALITY

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 79 p 3

[Text] Infant mortality in Lahore has registered a considerable decline due to preventive measures taken by the Municipal Health authorities, it is learnt.

Working on the plans drawn up in that regard by the immunisation Council the death rate among children has now been brought down to 23.3 per thousand as against 30 till some time ago.

The Council provides guidelines for combating disease among the children.

BCG injections are being given to the children in maternity hospitals some time after their birth to protect them against tuberculosis. Teams of doctors are also being sent to 748 registered schools in the city regularly to give BCG injections to the students.

The Lahore Municipal Corporation Health Department has so far administered injections to 2.12 lakh students out of a registered number of 2.5 lakh.

Positive measures have also been taken by the Health authorities to protect the infant against whooping cough, polio, tetanus and measles.

The rate of infant mortality in Lahore in 1951 when the population was six to seven lakh was 11,381. The infant mortality last recorded in 1978 was 8,831 when the population was around 35 lakh.

Measles account for the highest among the children whose rate is 70 percent while whooping cough is 15 percent and chickenpox two percent.

Only 92 cases of polio were reported in Lahore last year.

CSO: 5400

SOUTH KOREA

GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS SURVEY ON LEPROSY

Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Jul 79 p 8

[Text] Some 86.1 percent of the nation's lepers have suffered from the disease with no knowledge of when or how they became infected, a survey by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs revealed yesterday.

The ministry conducted the survey on 28,295 lepers registered in the country for the three years from January 1976, to help in the establishment of policies for leperous patients.

The survey said 24,347 or 86.1 percent of them suffered from Hansen's disease without understanding the contamination channels and only 3,745 or 13.2 percent were able to trace the cause of infection.

Some 37.5 percent or 10,573 of them said they started to suffer from it when they were between 10 and 19, followed by those aged 20-29 with 34.3 percent or 9,721 and 30-39 with 14.2 percent or 4,009.

The survey said 25.2 percent of the total patients said they first found the symptoms on their legs, 20.5 percent on their hands, 14.9 percent on their arms, 17.7 percent on their faces, 13.6 percent on their feet and 8.1 percent in other places.

It said nine percent or 2,603 were disabled by the disease and 1,396 were listed as losing their sight.

About 63.5 percent of the lepers were found to live in difficult financial situations, 24.7 percent in middle class, and 2.8 percent in good situations. However, 8.7 percent were found to require some help from others.

As for their educational background, 48.5 percent were unschooled, followed by graduates of primary schools with 38.6 percent, those graduated from middle school with 9.4 percent, high school with 3.1 percent and colleges with 0.4 percent.

BRIEFS

COMBATING MALARIA--Khartoum, 24 Jun (SUNA)--A team of researchers in the Health Ministry are combating the larva of malaria-carrier mosquito. The team is utilizing biological techniques in which a special kind of fish called "Gambozia" feed on the mosquitos laid on river banks and hafirs. The team is also using other fish species according to the same biological principle. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA BULLETIN in English 24 Jun 79 p 2]

CSO: 5400

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN APPRAISED

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Jun 79 pp 3,5

[Article by Fathi Salma: "Malaria Rate Drops 50 Percent, But How Can the Disease Be Eradicated?"]

[Text] The Anti-Malaria Central Agency, with headquarters at Sharja, has started the largest operation to appraise and survey malaria cases in 13 villages on the eastern coast of the country, where such cases have been recurring. The operation includes ascertaining the density of mosquitos before and after spraying, conducting a medical checkup for all the inhabitants of these villages, taking blood samples from the majority of the villagers and promptly providing treatment for the positive cases.

The field studies ascertain that the malaria rate, this year, has dropped by 50 percent from the rates of the previous years as a result of the continued anti-malaria operations and concentration on providing treatment for the migrant workers coming from India and Pakistan, 50 percent of whom are hit with malaria.

However, the problem still requires the public to support the efforts of the government aiming at eliminating the water ponds and swamps in the country.

The Ministry of Health continues its intensified efforts to combat malaria in all parts of the United Arab Emirates, through the Anti-Malaria Central Agency in Sharja which was created for this particular purpose. The Ministry of Health provides the agency with all the necessary resources for carrying out the tasks assigned to it.

Since the beginning of the past year, the Anti-Malaria Central Agency has been intensifying its spraying and fumigating operations and utilizing every available means to combat the malaria-carrying mosquito in all parts of the state. These efforts have achieved good results: Malaria rate has dropped by 50 percent from the rates of previous years.

However, despite these anti-malaria efforts and the good results achieved, the malaria threat will continue to exist as long as ponds, swamps and

water pools exist in various parts of the country. The anti-malaria operations, undertaken by the Anti-Malaria Central Agency, will continue to be mere sedatives and will not eradicate malaria unless all the water ponds and pools are eliminated.

Attempts

Several attempts have been made to eliminate the ponds and pools. The municipalities and other organizations participated in these modest attempts. But the results were relatively limited compared with the enormity of the problem, which required participation and cooperation from all sectors, instead of depending wholly on the machinery of the government.

Shaykh 'Isa 'Abd al-'Aziz al Mu'alla, director of the Anti-Malaria Central Agency in Sharja, says that his agency has sent a circular letter to all the directors of the contracting companies in Sharja calling upon them to show genuine cooperation, prompt action and positive contribution to eliminating the water ponds and swamps in the city. They were asked to use all their available means and effective capabilities for this purpose. The circular letter further said the pools of stagnant water not only distorted the general picture of the city but also provided fertile grounds for the multiplication and large-scale spread of the malaria-carrying mosquitos that threatened public health. The agency called upon the companies to contribute effectively to its efforts directed toward eradication of malaria.

13 Villages

Engineer Usri Fatin, a malaria expert at the agency, says that the agency is conducting an epidemic and insect evaluation survey covering 13 villages on the eastern coast of the state, reported to have recurrence of malaria cases. The evaluation team is trying to determine the average rate of the density of mosquitos before and after the spraying of insecticides in order to know to what extent the anti-malaria campaigns reduce the mosquito density rate. During the second stage of the evaluation operation, the team will give a complete medical checkup for all the inhabitants of these villages and will collect blood samples from the greatest possible number of the villagers, to be analyzed at the agency's laboratories. Positive cases will be treated immediately. This program will be continued on the eastern coast of the state, covering the villages of al-Fujeira, Khor, Kan, Kaiba and Daba, until the end of the current year.

Fumigation operations are being carried out in areas where malaria cases were reported. High compression fumigating and spraying equipment, for the first time in the state, are being utilized in these operations.

Medical Treatment for Imported Workers

Engineer Usri Fatin goes on to say that the efforts and resources of the Ministry of Health, by themselves, are inadequate to eradicate malaria,

unless the other sides cooperate with the ministry in eliminating the origin of the problem by getting rid of the water pools, ponds and swamps.

Recently the Anti-Malaria Central Agency has intensified its anti-malaria campaigns and provided medical treatment for about 40 percent of the migrant workers. As a result, the number of reported malaria cases in all parts of the state dropped greatly.

Mr Fatin says that the Ministry of Health has recently appointed a malaria expert from a Bangladesh and assigned him to the Anti-Malaria Central Agency. The expert will devote his time to the study of the malaria epidemic in the whole country. He has joined the team currently conducting the epidemic evaluation operation covering 13 villages on the eastern coast of the state.

50 Percent Drop

Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Mas'ad Muhammed, in charge of technical affairs at the agency, says that malaria cases, this year, have dropped greatly, compared with previous years. The decrease reaches 50 percent and can be attributed to two factors:

First: the continued anti-mosquito operations through spraying, combating mosquitos at the various stages of breeding and growth, treating stagnant water, the birthplace of mosquitos, with insecticides, and combating the flying mosquito with spraying the houses and residential compounds of the workers, space fumigation by modern equipment and eliminating some ponds and swamps by the municipalities in order to reduce the density of the disease-carrying insect. During the past year, all the areas in the state were sprayed. At present, spraying operations are carried out on the eastern coast, in addition to the continuous anti-malaria campaigns conducted in the other emirates.

The second factor lies in the human being himself, who is the source of infection. It has been noticed that about 80 percent of the reported malaria cases come from the imported workers, particularly those coming from India and Pakistan. The agency has instituted a procedure whereby the imported workers, upon their arrival, are provided with anti-malaria drugs for 8 weeks. The drugs distributed are very effective. Every worker is given two chloroquine tablets and six primaquine tablets weekly. This treatment is adequate to put an end to the disease. During the past year, about 4 million tablets of the two drugs were distributed to about 62,000 migrant workers. In addition, treatment of cases diagnosed in hospitals has been improved, and all the health centers in the state have been adequately provided with medicines and drugs. As a result, the source of infection has been reduced by reducing the rate of malaria cases. Consequently, the chances of infection by the disease-carrying mosquito have been curtailed.

The agency is continuing its distribution of the anti-malaria drug tablets in cooperation with the companies employing many workers. The agency responds promptly to any request by the companies for drugs to treat their respective workers. They are provided with as many drug tablets as they request. In addition, the agency continues to pursue the appearance of any new cases in order to know their source and treat them immediately.

The Anti-Malaria Ideal Program

Discussing the anti-malaria ideal program, drawn up in cooperation with the World Health Organization experts, Dr 'Abd al-'aziz Mas'd Muhammed says that this program will be the least costly on a long-term basis. Usually, it is limited to 10 years and aims at eradicating malaria completely. It includes the following stages:

The Preparatory Stage: This stage includes conducting a survey of the disease, its size and distribution, the disease-carrying mosquito, sensitivity of the insecticides, characteristics of the insect, customs of the people at home, training of technicians and workers and making available the necessary human and material resources.

The Offensive Stage: It includes the spraying operations which should cover all the houses and all the rooms therein and should be carried out according to the schedule in order to be most effective during the mosquito-spread period. The offensive campaign should be carried out accurately and punctually, leaving no gap in the program that may curtail the chances of the success of the spraying operation or the effectiveness of the program.

The Boosting Stage: During this period, all the houses should be visited for a blood test of those inhabitants who have the malaria disease or who were hit by malaria in previous months. During the visit a suspect case should be given the first anti-malaria tablet. If the result of the test is positive, the patient should be given complete treatment. In case a malaria focal point is discovered, the area should be sprayed to prevent the spread of the disease.

After the elapse of a 3-year period without the occurrence of any malaria case, we would have reached the stage of maintenance. During this stage, we may still have the disease-carrying mosquito, but not the disease parasites. Full alertness is required during this stage because if a single case appears it may bring about the spread of the plague, especially because the immunity against the disease is reduced.

A Program With No Time Limits

However, Dr Muhammed says, there are certain obstacles impeding the implementation of the total eradication program, properly and accurately. These impediments include:

Mosquitos are showing immunity to the insecticides;

Insecticides are becoming more costly;

There are certain administrative and operational problems that impede the implementation of the program in the field.

Because of these obstacles, the general trend is to adopt a malaria control program that can be implemented easily and without any problem. In the long run, the control program will eradicate the disease. It will be a program with no time limits.

The Control System

Concluding, the agency's chief of technical affairs says: "The United Arab Emirates and the other states in the Gulf area are placing special emphasis on the malaria control measures through their cooperation with the Arab League Health General Secretariat, with headquarters at Riyadh. The ministers of health in the Gulf area states give great importance to putting an end to this epidemic in the region and consider that the ideal solution for this problem lies in a unified action program to be carried out, simultaneously, in all the Gulf states."

6800

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CHAGAS' DISEASE STRIKES--130,000 inhabitants of the northern Negro river zone are infected with Chagas' disease. These figures have emerged from the work of the organization which is fighting against that disease and which has, little by little surveyed all the northern departments of the country. A long-term campaign to detect the cases of persons afflicted with Chagas' disease has yielded its first results. Work has been carried out initially in the northern Negro river zone, a region considered an endemic area of the disease. The survey comprises several aspects, including a step by step examination of inhabited areas, its animals, and adjoining areas. Public health centers administering transfusions and human blood extractions are also being surveyed for positive (or possible) reactions indicating the presence of the disease. The barbeiro is not found near oceanic or semioceanic coasts. Thus, there are three well defined belts in our country in which the percentages of afflicted inhabitants differ markedly one from the other. In the South, the entire Plate river coast has practically a zero index of the disease. Adjacent to it is an intermediate zone (the southern Negro river zone) which presents a substantial level of infestation, which is, however, much lower than that presented by the so-called endemic zone (the northern Negro river region). [Excerpts] [Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 7 Jun 79 p 6] 9399

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

MALARIA RATE DROPS--Hanoi, July 13--Only 5.6 percent of the population in Song Be Province, north of Ho Chi Minh City, are affected by malaria. This means a drop of 30 percent compared with 1978, and an eight-fold decrease compared with 1975. An antimalaria campaign is sweeping the province. Particularly great efforts have been deployed in areas inhabited by minority nationals. Antimalaria teams have introduced sanitary measures to people and have made frequent mosquito sprays. [Text]
[Hanoi VNA in English 0245 GMT 13 Jul 79 OW]

CSO: 5400

YUGOSLAVIA

WHO OFFICIAL DENIES 'EPIDEMIC' NATURE OF MENINGITIS IN CROATIA

LD122043 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1809 GMT 12 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Zagreb, July 12 (TANJUG)--Isolated cases of serious meningitis, caused by enteroviruses, have been recorded in parts of the Yugoslav Constituent Republic of Croatia this summer. In the foreign press, however, the isolated cases have been reported as an epidemic.

World Health Organization Counsellor Dr Josip Falisevac of Zagreb, capital of Croatia, has stated that, since 1956, cases of this form of meningitis have been rather frequent not only in Yugoslavia but also in Europe and worldwide.

This year, cases of the illness were more frequent than ordinarily due to the exceptionally warm weather last month. For this reason, precautionary measures have been taken to prevent the illness from spreading and taking a more dangerous form.

W.H.O. Counsellor Falisevac has stated that there is no reason for anxiety, particularly since it takes only several days to cure the illness.

CSO: 5400

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN CHILILABOMBWE

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 9 Jul 79 p 5

[Text]

THE Ministry of Health has launched investigations into circumstances leading into the outbreak of meningitis in Chililabombwe where one person has died while three have been admitted into hospital.

Permanent secretary for Health, Dr Joseph Kasonde said in Lusaka yesterday a team of health officials was in the area assessing the situation.

He said there was certain information the team wanted before launching an immunisation campaign in the area.

"There are certain things we have to know first before starting to immunise people. We have to know the ages, sexes and localities of the three cases we have in hospital", he said.

Dr Kasonde explained that

there were different types of meningitis and his officers wanted to determine which one has affected Chililabombwe.

In 1975, the then Minister of Health Dr Mutumba Bull announced that 54 people died of meningitis from 1,112 cases reported throughout the country that year.

By last year, the number of meningitis victims stood at 77. Dr Kasonde also announced that sporadic cases were still being reported of the other killer disease, cholera in Northern Province.

The disease which claimed 39 lives by February this year resulted into the Ministry declaring areas along Lake Tanganyika and Mpulungu in Mbala district quarantine areas.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH CAUSES CANCELLATION OF KALOMO SHOW

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 16 Jul 79 p 5

[Text] An outbreak of foot and mount disease has forced the cancellation of the Kalomo agricultural show which was to be held at the weekend.

Although there was no official confirmation of the cancellation, travellers from the area said the show did not take place.

This is the second district agricultural show to be cancelled in Southern Province for the same reason.

The first was the Livingstone show, which was to be held last month.

It was understood yesterday that the organisers of the two events were making arrangements for the shows to be held later.

Since the outbreak of the disease at the beginning of last month, cattle movements have been banned in the Livingstone/Kalomo area.

Meanwhile, reports from Gwembe indicate that preparations have been finalised for the areas today.

The two-day event is expected to draw large crowds of people, especially farmers.

Zana reports that the department of tsetse control in Kasempa, North-Western Province, has been directed to work hand in hand with the department of agriculture in an attempt to make cattle rearing viable in the district.

North-Western Province Central Committee, member, Mr Fine Liboma, issued the directive when he opened the fifth Kasempa district agricultural and commercial show at the weekend.

He said there was need for peasant farmers to use cattle for ploughing in the absence of tractors which were expensive to maintain.

Mr Liboma said, however, that farmers' efforts to take up cattle rearing were being frustrated by the high incidence of the tsetse fly in the area.

CSO: 5400

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

VACCINE SHORTAGE--The Regional Commission for Farming and Animal Husbandry Enterprises, with headquarters in Tres Arroyos, has expressed its concern to Abdon Lizaso, the national government's undersecretary for livestock, "with regard to the anxiety perceived in some sectors of the animal farming industry because of the lack of an adequate quantity of antiaphthic vaccine and because of the possibility that this shortage could make it difficult for the producers to effect vaccinations on the established dates." The Commission recommends that for the duration of this shortage the former regulation be reinstated whereby the producer was permitted to choose the date of vaccination and to do so after he had obtained the vaccine, or alternatively, that the next vaccination period be postponed for a certain time. The Commission also expresses its concern over the increase in the price of the vaccine and requests that the Undersecretariat proceed to verify that the increase does not constitute a breach of "commercial faith" based on knowledge of the possible shortage that may ensue as a result of the rejection of a large quantity of the vaccine for failure to meet minimum essential specifications. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Jun 79 p 13]

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

LABORATORY TO EXPORT HUMAN, ANIMAL VACCINES TO LATIN COUNTRIES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jul 79 p 17

[Text] By the end of the year, BRASVACIN (Vaccine Laboratory S/A), a Health Secretariat enterprise, will be exporting vaccines for animal and human use to various Latin American countries. The domestic demand for these medicines will be met and some of them will no longer be imported, according to Joaquim de Paulo Barreto Fonseca, president of the enterprise.

The first phase of the BRASVACIN project, located in Campinas, will be initiated in the first quarter of 1980, with plans for the production of Sabin and Salk poliomyelitis vaccines as well as other vaccines used against such childhood diseases as measles and whooping cough. In the veterinary field, vaccines will be produced for foot-and-mouth disease and brucellosis, which should solve problems currently faced by cattle and hog breeders.

One of the primary goals of the BRASVACIN project is the manufacture of insulin. Some 2 percent of the Brazilian people are known to suffer from diabetes, and 17 percent of them depend on insulin. An insulin shortage in Brazil generated a serious problem 3 years ago. Now BRASVACIN has announced it plans to use modern technology to produce insulin from hog pancreas, which is more acceptable because it does not produce side-effects. The product is currently manufactured from cow's pancreas, imported from the United States and Denmark.

The laboratory will be supplied with about 700 tons of hog pancreas a year from packers in the south of the country, enough to permit production of 40 kgs of insulin crystals. This is equal to 4 billion units of the medicine, and will result in direct savings of \$2 million (about 52 million cruzeiros).

BRASVACIN will have a science department, which will function by arrangement with the Catholic University of Campinas, the State University of Campinas and other educational institutions.

6362

C30: 5400

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY DENIES REPORTED FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE PLANS

Campaign Announced

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 20 Jun 79 p 7

[Text] Minister Delfim Netto's office issued a terse note yesterday announcing that a campaign to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease will be initiated throughout the country and banning the movement of animals in or out of any farm where the animal disease has been confirmed.

According to observers, the measure indicates virtual acceptance of the U. S. offer to help eradicate foot-and-mouth disease as was done in the United States and Mexico, by "shotgun prophylaxis," slaughtering and incinerating all the cattle in the focal area.

Although they did not care to admit that Minister Netto had accepted the assistance offered last week by Edward Schuh, U. S. assistant secretary of agriculture, to eliminate foot-and-mouth disease in Brazil, ministry sources commented that the method is "indisputably effective," and noted that it was by slaughtering the hogs that the African swine fever foci were eliminated last year, preventing the spread of the disease throughout the country.

Government Denies Slaughter Plans

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 21 Jun 79 p 7

[Text] The Agriculture Ministry issued an official note yesterday, denying that the government "would go to the extent of demanding the slaughter of animals to combat foot-and-mouth disease in the cattle herd."

The official note also denied that Edward Schuh, U. S. assistant secretary of agriculture, had offered American assistance in eradicating the disease in Brazil when he met with Minister Delfim Netto last Wednesday.

Following his meeting with Netto, however, secretary Schuh held a press conference with FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, JORNAL DO BRASIL,

O GLOBO, DCI, CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, JORNAL DE BRASILIA and CORREIO DO POVO, during which he said he had told the minister that the United States is prepared to assist in eradicating swine fever [sic] in Brazil, "the way we did 15 years ago in Mexico."

Mexico eliminated foot-and-mouth disease by "shotgun prophylaxis," shooting 900,000 head of cattle, for which the ranchers were indemnified. The United States contributed \$136 million, part of which was paid in wages to the 8,000 men employed in the campaign.

Official Note

Yesterday's official note was drafted under the guidance of Angelo Amaury Stabile, secretary general of the ministry, and it is reprinted here in full:

"There is absolutely no basis to the reports published in Brasilia and Sao Paulo that the government may go to the extent of requiring the slaughter of animals to combat foot-and-mouth disease in the cattle herd. It has never been under consideration, much less suggested by the U. S. assistant secretary of agriculture, as it was reported. Edward Schuh would never be so foolish as to propose it, nor would the Ministry of Agriculture consider such a possibility.

"Regarding the production of vaccines against foot-and-mouth disease, the Agriculture Ministry has been working for 45 days with the manufacturers to obtain a larger supply of powerful immunization vaccines. On Thursday and Friday of this week, the national secretary of livestock defense will meet in Porto Alegre with representatives of the laboratories that produce vaccines, to observe the final tests to permit the release of 10 million more doses of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine.

"Moreover, the Quality Analysis Laboratory of the Agriculture Ministry will soon go into action, broadening the possibility of increasing the supply of vaccine on the market."

Vaccine Shortage

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 21 Jun 79 p 7

[Text] A 50-percent reduction in the supply of vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease is preventing the SA-DF [Agriculture Secretariat of the Federal District] from filling the orders insistently demanded by five municipios in Goias. The municipios were not taken into consideration when the quota was established for the state, and the failure to supply them is generating serious controversy among the cattlemen in the geoeconomic area of Brasilia.

Ivan Barreto Rodrigues, director of the Livestock Development Nucleus of the SA-DF, reported yesterday that the 50,000 doses available this year are only enough to meet the needs of producers in the Federal District, who own 80,000

head of cattle. He guaranteed that the 50,000 doses are enough to ensure effective control of foot-and-mouth disease, even though 30,000 head would be excluded from the vaccination program.

Producers in the municipios of Planalto de Goias, Padre Bernardo, Formosa, Cristalma and Cabeceira are seeking to obtain foot-and-mouth disease vaccine. Engineer Barreto explained that he can only meet the needs of the Goias Secretariat of Agriculture if the latter meets its part of the bargain that was reached between the two organs, supplying the basic item in the joint program: the vaccine itself.

The reduction in the vaccine supply is not being observed in Brasilia alone, but throughout the nation, as a result of the strict quality-control tests the Agriculture Ministry is requiring of the producing laboratories. Half the vaccine produced fails the quality tests and is held off the market. The tests were adopted after it was found that quality control leads to more satisfactory results in combating foot-and-mouth disease than large-scale use of vaccines that do not meet indispensable technical requirements.

War Going Badly

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 21 Jun 79 p 7

[Article by Marco Antonio: "War Against Foot-And-Mouth Disease Going Badly"]

[Text] They want to do to the cattle what they did to the hogs.

This is the conclusion to be drawn from the show that is being put on over the battle against foot-and-mouth disease; there is already even talk about the "shotgun method," in the style of the Old West, including reports that the procedure--i.e., shooting the cattle suspected of carrying foot-and-mouth disease--used in the United States and Mexico with total success.

The cattlemen are alarmed at the threat, remembering very clearly how they slaughtered the hogs, how the Brazilian swine herd was decimated on the pretext of combating African swine fever. Then, when they had virtually finished off the stock at the so-called "far end of the garden," the stock of the small producers who had been responsible for a significant percentage of the Brazilian herd, the explanation came out. It was all a game by multinationals to get rid of the competition, in order to dominate the highly promising pork market in Brazil.

There are those who say that the same attempt is being made with the beef herd. The explanation is different, however, and it involves perhaps even more criminal factors.

We refer to an attempt to bring pressure on the supervision of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, to make it less strict, or better, more accepting of the

quality of the product offered. The attempt has been made; recently "vaccines" amounting to no less than 70 percent of the total stock were seized, and they were simply dirty water. They were making vaccines the same way they once produced "fertilizers." The formula was falsified, making the vaccine powerless, if not dangerous.

The strategy seems clear. Even though foot-and-mouth disease is gradually disappearing from Brazilian ranges, thanks to the vaccination campaigns, and would tend to die out after a period without recourse to the "bang-bang," the furor over the disease is a way to make the cattlemen raise an outcry and demand more vaccines; next would come an attempt to persuade the government to relax its quality control, since there would not be enough time to produce the vaccine, within the high standards, in the amounts needed.

It is possible that very soon we will again hear the "excuse" that was offered about 2 years ago by a (multinational) manufacturer of corn-derived food products, who claimed that the products his firm was offering to the Brazilian consumer were inferior to those produced by the parent company in the United States, because a developing country is not in a position to achieve the same level of quality.

Now they are going to say that an inferior vaccine may be given to Brazilian cattle. In addition to being the dean of Brazilian humor, the genial Aparicio Torelli is also a dedicated foot-and-mouth disease researcher. Now the "Baron of Itarare" will have to keep on his toes to confront, with his wit and his science, the crooked deal that is taking shape in this area.

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CSO: 5400

PROBLEMS HAMPERING CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jul 79 p 36

[Text] Doubt about the quality of vaccines put on the market, lack of co-operation from some cattle raisers in regard to effective use of medicine and reporting outbreaks to health authorities, as well as the Agriculture Ministry's resistance to adopting more advanced methods of combating the disease, are some of the problems that hinder more effective control of foot-and-mouth disease. This became clear yesterday at the meeting between technicians of the Agriculture Ministry, the Agriculture Secretariat, industrialists of the veterinary sector and cattle raisers held under the auspices of the Nelore Cattleraisers Association of Brazil. But the official representatives announced that the Agriculture Ministry has just released a funding of 80 million cruzeiros for its Animal Research Laboratory (LARA) in Campinas so that quality tests on the vaccine that are now concentrated in Porto Alegre may also be conducted in Sao Paulo.

In any event, there is no prospect of this year's supply of vaccine for foot-and-mouth disease being able to meet demand as in previous years and the Agriculture Ministry therefore wants to continue its practice of making the vaccine available for the areas of greatest risk.

The Agriculture Ministry representatives and the president of the Animal Protective Industries Association (SINDAN), Nelson Antunes, agree that during recent years, to a greater or lesser extent, foot-and-mouth disease vaccines manufactured in Brazil have not met the market's quality requirements. In 1976 the Agriculture Ministry, which is responsible for inspecting the output of this medication, rejected 1.8 percent of the vaccines tested. The following year the rejection rate rose to 5.8 percent and it reached 6.8 percent in 1978. Between January and June of this year 50 percent of the vaccines were considered unfit for use.

This significant increase in the rejection rate is due in large part to the new control procedures that the Agriculture Ministry put into practice at the end of last year. Health authorities assert, however, that the product being released now "is really effective" in controlling the disease and that by the beginning of next year the vaccine supply will be back to

normal. Nelson Antunes explained that in the latest tests, made 4 July, the vaccine approval rate rose to 90 percent and that "the industrialists have no desire to put products of poor quality on the market. If there are problems," he emphasized, "it is because the industry did not have a frame of reference, a standard to be followed in a mass-production situation."

He also said that vaccine quality has been impaired by improper preservation methods used by distributors (10,000 nationwide) and on the farm. He recalled that large areas of Minas Gerais, Bahia and Espirito Santo were struck by floods that would have implied an electric-power failure in the countryside and in the cities. But the manufacturers did not receive any complaint about the vaccines, which leads him to believe that the vaccines either were not used or were used despite their impaired quality.

The Agriculture Ministry delegate in Sao Paulo, Andre Brocca Filho, said that the shortage of vaccine in the state was caused by its diversion to other regions "because many ranchers bought the vaccine here to take care of their herds in Goias, Mato Grosso, Para and other states."

The fact that 30 percent of the domestic herd is always in transit because of the marketing activities inherent to the sector was also mentioned by the specialists as a factor in impeding better control of foot-and-mouth disease.

Chemotherapy

"Brazilians are not entitled to have good ideas. A small and poor firm is, in principle, a charlatan." Claudia Rocha, technical director of the Institute of Applied Veterinary Medicine (IVA) made these assertions at a meeting during an outburst against the attitude of Agriculture Ministry technicians, who have not officially certified "protex-AF-270" as an effective product in curing and controlling foot-and-mouth disease. This medicine, according to the manufacturers, "really cures" in a few days and its use has been spreading among cattlemen since 1946. The Sao Paulo Biological Institute, furthermore, tested the product last year and decided that it was effective. But, according to Claudia Rocha, the medicine's registration in the Agriculture Ministry "lapsed due to expiration of the time period" because "no one deigned to test it and say whether it was good or bad." After the IVA representative's speech yesterday, the Agriculture Ministry technicians affirmed that "protex" will be tested at the official laboratory in Porto Alegre. Fabio Rocha, another IVA director, said that although the medicine does not compete with vaccines, because the action of "protex" is curative and not preventive, "the multinational companies of the sector are exerting strong pressure for the medicine to be discredited."

BRIEFS

CATTLE IMMUNIZATION--The military government in the Gaza Strip has announced that it will take severe steps against cattle owners who do not immunize their cattle against Rift Valley fever. The military government has set up barriers at control points between the Gaza Strip and the green line in Judaea and Samaria because not all the cattle in the strip have yet been immunized. Thousands of animals in the neighboring countries have died from fever, as have even several people. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jul 79 TA]

CSO: 5400

KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

CIRCULAR ON BOVINE PROTECTION--In a circular issued 2 July, the Central Commission for Agriculture has invited the localities of the country to devote special attention to protecting the herds of buffalo and oxen. The commission calls for the adopting of preventive measures to combat animal diseases and for the curtailment of thoughtless slaughter of animals. It also encourages the authorities of the various localities to increase the size of the herds. [Text] [(Clandestine) SPK in French 1443 GMT 5 Jul 79 BK]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

HATSAIFONG RABIES VACCINATION--As already presented in the news concerning the vaccination movement in [Meuang] Hatsaifong District, the veterinarians from Vientiane Province veterinary services together with those from Hatsaifong District have from 18 to 23 April vaccinated the domestic animals, particularly the draft animals of the population in this area. This aims at improving overall cattle health so as to enable them to fully take part in food production in the growing season. As a result of this movement, they vaccinated for hoof and mouth disease, and administered multivitamin shots to 6,562 buffaloes, 1,926 cows; and rabies shots to 229 dogs. At the same time they treated 49 sick buffaloes; 45 cows and 26 hogs. Along with the vaccinations, the veterinarians also educated people in the principles of animal husbandry, such as new animal husbandry techniques, how to provide water, good care, frequent change of cattle pens, choosing good breeds and others. News further disclosed that at present, other than at Hatsaifong, the Vientiane veterinary services together with those from 14 other surrounding districts have been cheerfully conducting their vaccination and treatment work with the peasants' animals. This movement will be completed before the rainy season. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 12 May 79 pp 1, 3] 9438

CSO: 5400

SWEDEN

STRANGE DISEASE AFFECTING LIVESTOCK SPREADS

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 8 Jun 79 pp 1, 6

[Article by Willy Siberstein: "New Animal Disease Spreads to Stockholm"]

[Text] An infectious disease, which affects cattle, has now spread to the Stockholm area. Veterinarians do not know how to stop the disease. Large quantities of meat have been discarded due to the disease.

Parafilaria bovicola was first discovered on East Gotland and in Sodermanland, but the virus has now spread northward.

The disease is spread by a parasite, which settles under the animal's skin. The parasite remains there for 7 to 10 months, at which time it reaches sexual maturity. The parasite then cuts through the animal's skin, which causes bleeding. "The opening in the skin contains new eggs, which are later spread to other animals by flies," said Professor Goran Hugoson at the Government Institute for Veterinary Medicine in Sweden.

Slaughterhouses must discard meat that surrounds the area where the parasite laid its eggs and this can be very costly for the cattle owners.

"In the last 5 years, since the parasite was first discovered in Sweden (it comes from the tropics), we estimate that meat valued at approximately 700,000 kronor has been spoiled. That, in itself, is not much, compared to other infectious diseases among cattle, but the disease is now beginning to spread so that costs may go up considerably," said Professor Hugoson.

"However, I do not believe we will have a meat shortage.

"Unfortunately, we do not know how to eradicate the parasite. We are experimenting with that on East Gotland, but it is yet too early to tell whether we have succeeded."

There is no danger involved in eating the meat from a diseased animal and, as we mentioned earlier, the meat immediately affected by the parasite is discarded.

Bjorn Sjolander takes care of the animals at Erstavik farm in Stockholm.

"The situation is very serious. About 10 of our 160 animals have been infected. More animals will, no doubt, be involved, but we cannot do anything about it," he said.

"Milk production is normal, even in infected animals, but meat from slaughtered cattle worth large sums of money must be discarded," he reported.

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CSO: 5400

'UNKNOWN' DISEASE HITS CATTLE, GOATS, SHEEP

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 7 Jul 79 p 5

[Text]

MWINILUNGA district has been hit by an unknown cattle disease which has already claimed about 20 animals at Nyakaseya in Senior Chief Kanongesha's area.

This was brought to light yesterday by Mr Lloyd Solomon, a farmer in the area, who is also headteacher at Mwinilunga primary school.

He said the killer disease

has also wiped out a number of goats and sheep and expressed worry about the future of the remaining stock in the area.

Another farmer, Mr Samuel Njimba, claimed that he had lost some goats, sheep and cattle since last year and as a result he had moved his animals to another area for safety.

Both Mr Solomon and Mr Njimba blamed the

office of the district veterinary office for having allegedly failed to treat animals in the affected areas in spite of several reports to his office.

Mr Solomon described the situation as unbearable adding that if the Department of Veterinary and Tse Tse Control did not take quick preventive measures, all animals in Nyakaseya would die. - Zana.

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CAMPAIGN--Members of the public travelling from Livingstone have been requested to stop at barriers set up by the veterinary department to have their vehicles sprayed against foot-and-mouth disease. The disease has been reported in five places in the Livingstone area and latest reports reaching Lusaka say the disease has moved to Chundo farm about 40 km from Livingstone. Making the appeal, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development said if the public fails to adhere to veterinary instructions the disease will spread. The spokesman also appealed to travellers coming from infected areas, which include Kalomo, not to carry meat, milk, hens and other [word indistinct] to other areas. [Text] [Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Jun 79 LD/CA]

CSO: 5400

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

COLOMBIA-ECUADOR RUST PREVENTION--The National Federation of Coffee-growers [FEDECAFE] reported yesterday that coffee rust is close to Colombia's border with Ecuador. The national government decided to close provisionally the border with Ecuador to prevent the entry of vegetables from both Ecuador and Peru. A cordon will be set up along the Ecuadorean border at Ipiales port in the next few days. FEDECAFE and the Colombian Agricultural-Cattle Institute have decided to change the quarantine requirements. The new coffee rust prevention measures will cover about 600 coffee plantations in Narino and 20,000 hectares of land. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA]

COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA SUGAR RUST--Bogota--The Colombian Agricultural Institute has reported that Colombia and Venezuela have begun to cooperate in the detection of sugar rust disease in the valleys of Zulia and Tachira. It said that the Venezuelan authorities have promised to cooperate in the campaign against the disease in the border region with Colombia by replacing the affected sugar cane with a more resistant variety. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jul 79 PA]

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

LOCUST PLAGUE EXPECTED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 May 79 p 4

[Text] Sydney.--A severe outbreak of plague locusts is expected in Victoria this spring.

Eggs have been laid in large areas of NSW down to the Murray River and across to Mildura.

If the Australian Plague Locust Commission cannot stop the southward migration, Victoria and Southern NSW will be faced with severe pasture and crop destruction.

In its latest bulletin, the commission says the spring outbreak is potentially the worst since 1955.

The eggs were laid in March when, despite spraying by Federal and State Government bodies, a mass migration of adult locusts occurred on five consecutive nights. Weather conditions have been perfect for the hatching of the eggs laid by these adults which have since died.

A Plague Locust Commission spokesman said yesterday that the Australian locust always flies southwards (except when prevailing winds temporarily force them north) and the huge egg beds mean the number of locusts entering Victoria will create "severe problems".

The two biggest plagues recorded in Victoria occurred in 1955 and 1935. More recently, significant outbreaks occurred in 1973-74 and 1976.

The NSW chairman of the Cattlemen's Union of Australia, Mr. Ian Armstrong, yesterday called on the NSW and Federal Governments to act immediately to avert a "potential disaster".

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

ROT THREATENS COCOA PRODUCTION--Salvador--Occurrence of brown rot could prevent Brazil from becoming the world leader in cocoa production after 1984, according to what was said yesterday by the president of the Cocoa Producers Advisory Council (CCPC), Humberto Salomao Mafuz, after a discussion with 75 rural unions of the cocoa plantation region. "I have strong reservations about the announcement by the International Cocoa Organization (OIC) to the effect that Brazil may surpass the Ivory Coast in the production of cocoa," Mafuz commented. "I do not believe we will assume leadership as early as was announced, since this year, for example, it is already winter and the occurrence of brown rot still constitutes a strong threat to production in the south of Bahia." The CCPC president retains his pessimism about fulfilling the OIC forecast even in view of the good results obtained by the cocoa crop and by exporters during the first half of this year. Last month alone 212,000 bags of cocoa beans were exported, as well as the equivalent of 76,000 bags of unsweetened cocoa powder and cake. During the same period last year only 71,416 bags of cocoa beans and the equivalent of 72,400 bags of unsweetened cocoa powder and cake were exported. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Jul 79 p 24] 8834

CSO: 5400

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

INSECT INFESTATION--Harmful insects have invaded planted fields in five areas of Guinea-Bissau, the service for the protection of agriculture in this country has reported. This same service stresses that the scourge is on the increase as the season for locusts, termites and other parasitic insects (from July to November) is drawing nearer. The EEC has offered \$10,000 for the purchase of materials to fight the scourge since there are only about 200 tons of insecticides available in Guinea-Bissau. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 12 Jul 79 p 8]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CONTROL OF BEE MITES--The bee mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*, was first detected in Hungary during the summer of 1978 on a farm which kept bees and was located near the Romanian border. In the autumn of 1978, the infection was detected through regular inspections in the apiaries of 10 villages, all located less than 10 kilometers from the Romanian border. After medication (Folbex-Geigy) an average of two *Varroa* mites per bee family were found. This indicated that the country actually became infected in 1978. During the initial period the infected apiaries were exterminated completely and the government reimbursed the keepers. In 1979 the protective belts were enlarged in the regions bordering on the infected countries. Infected bee families continue to be exterminated and regular diagnostic inspections combined with medical treatment are carried out in the endangered zones. [Summary] [Budapest MAGYAR ALLATORVOSOK LAPJA in Hungarian No 6, 1979 pp 366-368]

CSO: 5400

PINE FORESTS ATTACKED BY NUN MOTH

Szczecin KURIER SZCZECINSKI in Polish 9 Jul 79 p 2

[Text] The forestry service in our voivodship this year is waging a battle with a menacing pest--the nun moth (brudnica mniszka) [Lymantria monacha]. It has attacked the forests of northern Poland with great intensity. The larvae of this insect feed on pine tree needles and, in addition, are causing great damage to the pine stands which dominate nearly the entire country.

In the spring the moth plague spread from the Torun and Bydgoszcz voivodships in a westerly direction, encompassing gradually the forests of the Slupsk, Koszalin and Pila voivodships. In May and June it reached Western Pomerania. The District Administration of State Forests used chemical poison sprayed from airplanes to fight this insect. In the Szczecin and Gorzow voivodships, 11,000 hectares were sprayed.

In our voivodship [Szczecin] the nun moth appeared in large numbers in the Goleniow Forest Inspectorate. In mid-June, 2,000 hectares of pine forest in the region of Widziensko and Babigoszcz were sprayed with a toxic agent. These areas were marked by the forestry service. For at least a month from the moment preventive measures were taken, it was not permitted to gather berries or mushrooms in these places. The lovers of forest growths should keep this in mind.

It is not ruled out that the voracious insects may attack yet additional areas this year. The foresters are conducting observations of all pine tree stands in order to spot the pest in time and undertake remedial measures.

CSO: 5400

VIETNAM

FERTILIZER SHORTAGE, OTHER PROBLEMS THREATEN RICE OUTPUT

BK251339 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Jun 79 BK

[Text] According to the General Statistics Department, since the beginning of the summer-fall crop the southern provinces have planted nearly 500,000 hectares of rice, fulfilling more than 70 percent of the planned norm. Specifically, provinces from Thuan Hai down have grown almost 400,000 hectares, and provinces in former Zone 5 more than 90,000 hectares, fulfilling more than 80 percent of the planned norm. Elsewhere, An Giang has overfulfilled the planned norm by 7 percent; and Dong Nai and Dong Thap each by 2 percent. For its part, Nghia Binh has fulfilled the planned norm.

Although the summer-fall rice cultivation period is almost over, a number of provinces have fulfilled only a small percentage of the planned norm, with Ho Chi Minh City fulfilling slightly over 30 percent and Minh Hai just over 6 percent. If the planting pace is not accelerated, the planned norm for this year's summer-fall rice cultivation is most unlikely to be fulfilled.

A noteworthy fact is that some summer-fall rice areas in certain provinces have been affected by leafhoppers. In Tien Giang, the insects have ravaged more than 2,000 hectares; in An Giang, more than 9,000 hectares; and in Cuu Long, more than 4,000 hectares. The provinces concerned are actively trying to save their crops by applying various measures, including the use of chemicals.

With regard to the planting of the 10th-month crop, generally speaking, the northern provinces are actively preparing the means and materials necessary for cultivating a successful crop. The fields have been plowed fairly rapidly. As of 15 June, 10 of the northern provinces and municipalities had fulfilled nearly 30 percent of the planned norm for the sowing of "Nong Nghiep 22" and "Nong Nghiep 23" rice varieties. Many localities have paid attention to applying intensive farming techniques in the growing of rice seedlings by meticulously preparing the soil and applying 6 to 7 tons of stable manure on each hectare.

This year, Haiphong plans to grow more than 15,000 hectares of early 10th-month rice, double last year's area, to produce enough seeds for planting the winter crop. The municipal people's committee has instructed all the local districts to closely coordinate the growing of rice seedlings with soil preparation so that the early 10th-month rice can be transplanted on schedule.

Although some progress has been reported, in some respects the preparations for the cultivation of the 10th-month rice crop have fallen short of expectation. Some provinces are still slow in preparing the soil. Some localities still lack seeds, especially the seeds kept in reserve as a precaution against natural calamities. A number of flood-prone areas have been reluctant to grow their crop according to plan.

The most noteworthy fact in this year's 10th-month crop is the lack of fertilizer. Although intensive farming requires at least 7 to 8 tons of high quality stable manure for each hectare, to date we have produced just over 3 tons of low-quality manure for each hectare. If positive measures--such as increasing green manure supply, using silt, mud from ponds, urine, nightsoil, cow and buffalo dung, and so forth, to quickly increase fertilizer production, and guiding the utilization of the available fertilizer in a truly satisfactory manner to make it rational, adequate and correct--are not applied to rectify this state of affairs, this year's 10th-month rice crop is not likely to produce high yields.

The typhoon and flood season has just begun. Aside from some provinces that have satisfactorily carried out preventive measures against natural calamities, such as Hai Hung, Thai Binh, Ha Son Binh, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu and Bac Thai, which have fulfilled their dam building plans, a number of localities have not yet urgently engaged in typhoon and flood control activities. Subjectivism, which is reflected in the prediction that there will be no disastrous typhoon and flood this year, is still rather prevalent, causing some localities to be lax in making preparations against natural calamities.

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